

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-14 SR-02 ORM-03

DRC-01 DLOS-07 DPW-01 /183 W
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R 120819Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3635

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USUN 624

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4430

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS PFOR , CV, VS, VN

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN POLICY TOWARD RECOGNITION ISSUE
IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM

1. IN GENERAL GOUR D'HORIZON FONMIN WILLESEE RAISED CAMBODIA AS DIFFICULT POLICY PROBLEM FOR GOA. HE ANTICIPATED THAT GKR MIGHT LOSE CREDENTIALS FIGHT IN UNGA. HE SAID THAT AUSTRALIAN POSITION AS STATED BY WHITLAM REGARDING RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA WAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO TWO INTERPRETATIONS. HE HIMSELF HAD ALWAYS INTERPRETED GOA POLICY TO BE THAT AS LONG AS GKR EITHER HELD PHNOM PENH OR WAS SEATED IN UN AUSTRALIA WOULD MAINTAIN DIPLOMAITC RELATIONS WITH GKR. HWOEVER, THERE WAS SOME TALK WITHIN GOVERNMENT THAT GKR LOSS OF UN SEAT ALONE WOULD CAUSE GOA TO RECOGNIZE KMER ROUGE. WILLESEE WAS NOT CERTAIN OF WHITLAM'S OWN INTERPRETATION.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS DISTURBING DEVELOPMENT. WHEREAS
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WE HAD ALWAYS SEEN POSSIBILITY OF SECOND INTER-

PRETATION, WE HAVE REPEATEDLY BEEN ASSURED THAT BOTH CONDITIONS WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE BEFORE GOA DESERTED GKR. EMBASSY WILL PURSUE THIS POINT. AMBASSADOR TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND WILLESEE OF HOW SERIOUSLY WE REGARD THE CAMBODIAN ISSUE AND TOLD HIM US WOULD VIGOROUSLY SUPPORT GKR EFFORT TO RETAIN ITS UN SEAT.

3. WILLESEE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN GKR OFFER FOR UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. HE FELT CHINESE PRESSURE UPON KHMER ROUGE MIGHT BE VERY HELPFUL AND HAD CONSIDERED INSTRUCTING AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN PEKING TO APPROACH PRC ON THIS POINT. HOWEVER, HE RECOGNIZED PREDOMINATE US INTEREST IN INDOCHINA AND THOUGH HE WOULD FIRST CHECK WITH US. HE ASKED WHETHER US WAS CONSIDERING SUCH AN APPROACH IN PEKING, PERHAPS WITH ARGUMENT THAT US DID NOT WISH TO REMAIN FOREVER IN CAMBODIA AND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WOULD PERMIT US MORE FREEDOM TO REDUCE ITS PRESENCE. AMBASSADOR ANSWERED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER SUCH AN APPROACH WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON.

4. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, WILLESEE SAID NORTH VIETNAM HAD NOT PRESSURED GOA TO ACCEPT A PRG OFFICE AND GOA WOULD NOT DO SO. HOWEVER, GOA WAS ABOUT TO PROPOSE SENDING AMBASSADOR TO REPLACE CHARGE IN HANOI ON CONDITION QUARTERS COULD BE OBTAINED. HE ANTICIPATED THAT THIS MIGHT ELICIT PRESSURE

FOR AUSTRALIAN GESTURE TOWARD PRG. WILLESEE SAID AUSTRALIA CONTINUED TO OPPOSE SEATING OF PRG REPRESENTATIVES TO INTERNATIONAL FORUMS UNLESS "HUMANITARIAN" QUESTIONS WERE AT ISSUE. IN WILLESEE'S OWN VIEW, FORTHCOMING GENEVA CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS UNDER RED CROSS AUSPICES WAS "TECHNICAL" RATHER THAN "HUMANITARIAN" SESSION. AMBASSADOR UNDERLINED GREAT IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO REJECTION OF PRG EFFORTS TO OBTAIN STATUS.

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